(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) by when, the plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (f) Air India has been incurring losses since 1995-96. However, it has earned a net profit of Rs. 471 crores during the period April, 2001 to January 2002. Based on Traffic trends during February and March 2002, it is estimated that net profit for the financial year 2001-2002 would be higher.

Air India has constituted an in-house Expert Committee to develop Air India's fleet plan for the next five years. The Committee is expected to submit its report shortly.

Development of tourist circuits

*689. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to throw open development of new tourist circuits in the country to foreigners;

(b) if so, the tourist circuits proposed to be given for development together with the name of States in which they are located; and

(c) the conditions on which this development is to be done?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) During the Tenth Five Year Plan the Department of Tourism, Government of India proposes to identify six travel circuits in the country on an annual basis and develop them to international standards. During the Annual Plan 2002-03, an amount of Rs. 41.50 crores has been earmarked for the integrated development of six circuits. These circuits will be finalised and developed in close coordination and partnership with the State/UT Governments and the concerned Government of India Departments.

Exemption of excise duty on cement to Gujarat

*690. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gujarat Government has requested the Central Government for exemption of excise duty on sale of cement to the earthquake affected people for rehabilitation and reconstruction work;